



Permanent Representation  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Council of Europe  
Strasbourg

Director of Democratic Participation  
Mr. Matjaž Gruden  
Directorate General of Democracy  
Council of Europe  
Strasbourg

Ambassador  
**Heike Thiele**  
Permanent Representative

Strasbourg, 27 November 2024

Reply to **Alert No. 53/2024 concerning the Fake Tagesschau**, submitted to the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists.

Dear Mr. Gruden,

I would like to share with you the German governments' comment on Alert No. 53/2024 concerning the Fake Tagesschau.

The Tagesschau reported on the audio files in question in November 2023. In early 2024, the Dresden police headquarters became aware that apparently fake audio files had been played in public at the "Monday demonstrations" held by the Freie Sachsen group in Dresden on 29 January 2024 and 5 February 2024. The files contain AI-generated speech by Tagesschau presenters Susanne Daubner and Jens Riewa. In these fake news items, the injured parties apologise for allegedly false past reporting, warn against the danger of "daily stabbings, violent attacks and rapes", and urge people to join the Freie Sachsen political movement.

The Dresden police headquarters then opened a criminal investigation against an accused person on suspicion of defamation and incitement of the public. In addition, a warning was issued to the accused person and the organiser of the "Monday protests" for the purpose of prohibiting the playing of this fake audio file. A press release on this matter was also published (see Dresden police headquarters no. 135/24 of 27 February 2024, <https://www.medienservice.sachsen.de/medien/news/1073462>). The incident is the subject of a criminal investigation by the Dresden public prosecutor's office due to initial suspicion of a criminal act pursuant to sections 185 and 130 (1) no. 1 of the German Criminal Code (*Strafgesetzbuch*, StGB). The investigation is ongoing.

You may upload this reply to the Platform and share it with partner organisations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'd. H.', written over the text 'Sincerely yours,'.

